

IN THE CLAIMS

A marked-up version of the claims, showing changes made, may be found in Appendix A, attached hereto. Below is a clean set of all pending claims, submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3), incorporating any additions, cancellations, and amendments thereto. Please substitute these claims for pending claims of the same number.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating between electronic devices comprising:
operating a first device at a first hopping frequency during a first period of time and at a second hopping frequency during a second period of time;
operating a second device at the first hopping frequency, the second device communicating with the first device during the first period of time; and
operating a third device at the second hopping frequency, the third device communicating with the first device during the second period of time.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the second and third devices communicate with the first device during the first and second periods of time, respectively, within a single block
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the third device communicates with the first device during a contention-free period.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second device communicates with the first device outside of the contention-free period.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the third device communicates with the first device during a contention-free period.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second device communicates with the first device outside of the contention-free period.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - sending a signal from the third device to the first device, the signal requesting communication with the first device; and
 - determining a time frame for the second period of time in response to receiving the signal.
8. The method of claim 7, further comprising indicating the time frame to the second device.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the third device communicates with the first device during a contention-free period, and the second device communicates with the first device outside of the contention-free period.
10. A method of wirelessly communicating with electronic devices comprising:
 - receiving a first signal from a first device operating at a first hopping frequency;
 - sending a second signal to a second device operating at a second hopping frequency in response to receiving the first signal, the second signal indicating a time frame for a contention-free period; and
 - communicating with the first device at the first hopping frequency during the contention-free period.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising communicating with the second device outside of the contention-free period.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein sending the second signal to the second device and communicating with the first device are done within a single block.
13. The method of claim 10, further comprising sending an initiating signal to the first device to detect its presence, and the first signal is sent in response to the initiating signal.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein communication with the first device is done within the same block in which the second signal is sent
15. The method of claim 10, wherein the first device is a Bluetooth device and the second device is a HomeRF device.
16. A computer system programmed to implement the method of claim 10.
17. (Once Amended) An electronic device comprising:
 - a receiver to detect a first signal from a first device operating at a first hopping frequency;
 - a processor to determine a time frame for a contention-free period;
 - a transmitter to send a second signal to a second device operating at a second hopping frequency, the second signal to indicate the time frame for the contention-free period, the transmitter to further communicate with

25. (Newly Added) The medium of claim 22, wherein the contention free period resides within a single block.
26. (Newly Added) An electronic device comprising:
 - a first mode of operation in which the electronic device is to communicate in accordance with a first wireless communication protocol; and
 - a second mode of operation in which the electronic device is to communicate in accordance with a second wireless communication protocol during at least a portion of a block associated with the first wireless communication protocol.
27. (Newly Added) The electronic device of claim 26, wherein a first hopping frequency is associated with the first wireless communication protocol.
28. (Newly Added) The electronic device of claim 27, wherein a second hopping frequency is associated with the second wireless communication protocol.
29. (Newly Added) The electronic device of claim 28, wherein the portion is to occur during a contention-free period associated with the first wireless communication protocol.
30. (Newly Added) The electronic device of claim 26, wherein the portion is to occur during a contention-free period associated with the first wireless communication protocol.

Bantz does not propose operating a single device at two different hopping frequencies. It is stated in the outstanding office action that Bantz teaches operating a device at a first hopping frequency during interval B1 of Figure 3A and operating the device at a second hopping frequency during interval B2.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Bantz does not teach or suggest operating the device at a second hopping frequency during interval B2. No hopping occurs during interval B2. Bantz merely states, in column 6, lines 38-45, that interval B2 is subdivided into a plurality of *time slots*, not *hops*. There is no teaching or suggestion in Bantz that these time slots represent separate hops, as suggested in the outstanding office action. Moreover, it is specifically stated in column 5, lines 44-47, that interval B is part of a *single* hop, i.e. a single period of constant frequency. (See, e.g., column 3, lines 12-15, for a definition of a "hop" as used in Bantz). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the time slots of interval B2 do not represent separate hops in accordance with a second hopping frequency.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Bantz does not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claim 1, upon which claims 2-9 are dependent. In addition, note that independent claims 10, 16, 17, 22, and 26, upon which all remaining claims are dependent, set forth similarly patentable limitations.

Rejection Under 35 USC §103 Over Bantz

Claims 15, 18-20 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Bantz. For the reasons presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that Bantz does not teach or suggest Applicants' invention as set forth in the independent claims, upon which claims 15, 18-20, and 24 are dependent.

Conclusion


The claim amendments presented above were voluntarily made to broaden the scope of the claims.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections and the rejections of the claims submitted for examination have been overcome, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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